

Message Text

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ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07
L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-02 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15
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P R 062000Z MAY 77
FM AMEMBASSY SAN JOSE
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 7276
INFO AMEMBASSY GUATEMALA
AMEMBASSY MANAGUA
AMEMBASSY PANAMA
AMEMBASSY SAN SALVADOR
AMEMBASSY TEGUCIGALPA

UNCLAS SAN JOSE 1985

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PINT, PFOR, PGOV, CS
SUBJECT: VESCO DENIES MAKING POLITICAL CONTRIBUTIONS IN COSTA
RICA

REF: (A) SAN JOSE 1965; (B) 76 SAN JOSE 3355

1. SUMMARY: IN DENYING HAVING MADE POLITICAL CONTRIBUTIONS, VESCO THREATENS TO DIVULGE NAMES OF COSTA RICANS WHO REQUEST THEM FROM HIM. T ATTRIOFUTES "THE NEW REPUBLIC" ARTICLE TO PARTISAN POLITICS, CLAIMS HE IS BEING POLITICALLY PERSECUTED BECAUSEOF WATERGATE, AND REITERATES THAT HE DOES NOT INTEND TO BECOME A COSTA RICAN CITIZEN UNTIL THE SITUATION IN THE U.S. CLARIFIES. END SUMMARY.

2. ROBERT VESCO ISSUED STATEMENT MAY 5 DENYING THAT HE HAS MADE "ANY POLITICAL CONTRIBUTION TO ANY POLITICAL PARTY IN COSTA RICA" AND CHARGING THAT "THE NEW REPUBLIC" INTERVIEW OF FIGUERES IN WHICH FIGUERES IS SO QUOTED IS PART OF NEW ANTI-VESCO CAMPAIGN. VESCO NOTED AS WELL THAT IT WOULD BE UNCLASSIFIED

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UNFORTUNATE IF "MERE NEWS REPORTS WERE USED AS PROOFS RESULTING IN THE LOSS OF RESPECT FOR HUMAN RIGHTS AND AVOIDING THE OBJECTIVE JUDICIAL PROCESSES FOR WHICH DEMOCRATIC COSTA RICA IS KNOWN ALL OVER THE WORLD."

3. IN HIS RAMBLING SELF DEFENSE VESCO ATTRIBUTES THE ARTICLE TO "PARTISAN POLITICAL INTEREST." HE DISMISSES "NEW REPUBLIC"

POLITICAL EDITOR KEN BODE'S FIGUERES' QUOTES AS "WORTHLESS AND LACKING SERIOUSNESS" BECAUSE THE AUTHOR STATES AT THE OUTSET OF HIS PIECE THAT THE SUCCEEDING PARAGRAPHS ARE DISTILLED FROM TAPES

AND NOTES. THIS, VESCO REASONS, "IS A CLEAR ADMISSION THAT THE ARTICLE REPRESENTS THE POINT OF VIEW OF THE AUTHOR AND NOT NECESSARILY THE EXACT WORDS AS STATED." HE ADDS THAT FIGUERES CONFIRMED TO HIM THAT VERY DAY THAT THE CONTENTS OF A FIGUERES LETTER TO THE SUPREME ELECTORAL TRIBUNAL (OQE) IN JULY, 1976, ON THE SUBJECT OF VESCO POLITICAL CONTRIBUTIONS STILL

HOLDS, I.E. THAT FIGUERES "DIDNT REALLY THINK THAT VESCO HAD FINANCED ANY POLITICAL PARTY IN COSTA RICA." (AT THAT TIME FIGUERES TOLD THE TSE THAT A SIMILAR STATEMENT ABOUT VESCO CAMPAIGN CONTRIBUTIONS WAS MADE IN JEST - REF B.)

4. VESCO TOOK OPPORTUNITY TO REVIVE HIS CHARGES OF U.S. "POLITICAL PERSECUTION" OVER WATERGATE AND TO LASH OUT AT PAST STATEMENTS OF PREVIOUS U.S. AMBASSADOR TO COSTA RICA ON VESCO MATTER.

5. VESCO ALSO TOOK ISSUE WITH THE WAY "NEW REPUBLIC" ARTICLE REPORTED FIGUERES' DESCRIPTION OF HIS BUSINESS ACTIVITIES WITH VESCO; HE DENIED HE HAS "BUSINESS" WITH FIGUERES, ADMITTING ONLY TO HAVING INVESTED TWO MILLION DOLLARS IN FIGUERES' PREFABRICATED HOUSING VENTURE.

6. VESCO PROTESTED THAT HE HAS ALWAYS CONDUCTED HIMSELF IN COSTA

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RICAN ACCORDING TO THE LAW. HE NOTED THAT IT SHOULD BE OBVIOUS THAT WITH ALL HIS WATERGATE-RELATED PROBLEMS OVER A SUPPOSED POLITICAL CONTRIBUTION TO THE NIXON CAMPAIGN THAT HE WOULD DO NOTHING TO HAVE A POLITICAL SCANDAL OF THIS NATURE RECUR. HE ALSO THREATENED THAT "HE HAS THE INTENTION OF DIVULGINGS PUBLICLY THE NAME OF ANYBODY WHO ASKS ME FOR A POLITICAL CONTRIBUTION FOR THE ELECTION," AND SAID HE WOULD WELCOME PUBLICATION OF LISTS OF POLITICAL CONTRIBUTORS TO PROVE THAT HE IS NOT ONE OF THEM.

7. ONCE AGAIN, VESCO TALKED OF HIS AND HIS FAMILY'S CONTRIBUTIONS IN COSTA RICA TO "THE POOR, THE SICK, AND THE NEEDY COMMUNITIES."

8. VESCO'S STATEMENT ENDED WITH A REITERATION OF HIS PREVIOUSLY STATED INTENT (SAN JOSE 739) NOT TO ATTEMPT TO OBTAIN COSTA RICAN CITIZENSHIP THIS YEAR "UNTIL THE SITUATION IN THE U.S. CLARIFIES EVEN MORE TO PROVE THE FALSITY OF THE PUBLICITY CAMPAIGNS WHICH DECEIVE THE PUBLIC BY ALLEGING THAT I AM GUILTY

OF A CRIME AND CAME TO COSTA RICA TO AVOID JUSTICE." KILDAY

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Message Attributes

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